TERROR

PAPERCUTZ

NO. 7
ALL-NEW!

TALES FROM THE CRYPT®

AN ENTERTAINING EC COMIC®

IN THIS ISSUE:
AN ALL-NEW STORY BY
JOE R. LANSDALE &
JOHN L. LANSDALE
TEXAS' TOP TERROR WRITERS!

FEATURING...

THE CRYPT-KEEPER

THE OLD WITCH

THE VAULT-KEEPER

$3.95US

07

0 71896 45306 5

PAPERCUTZ™

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE SHAMELESSLY-STRUGGLING-TO-WIN-FAN-SUPPORT SEVENTH ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN, REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"IGNOBLE ROT"

FRED VAN LENTE
WRITER

MORT TODD
ARTIST

MORT TODD
LETTERER

THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"MOONLIGHT SONATA"

JOE R. LANSDALE & JOHN L. LANSDALE
WRITERS

CHRIS NOETH
ARTIST

MARK LERER
LETTERER

GHOULUNATICS SEQUENCES

JIM SALICRUP
WRITER

RICK PARKER
ARTIST/TITLE LETTERER/COLOR

MARK LERER
LETTERER

TERRY NANTIER

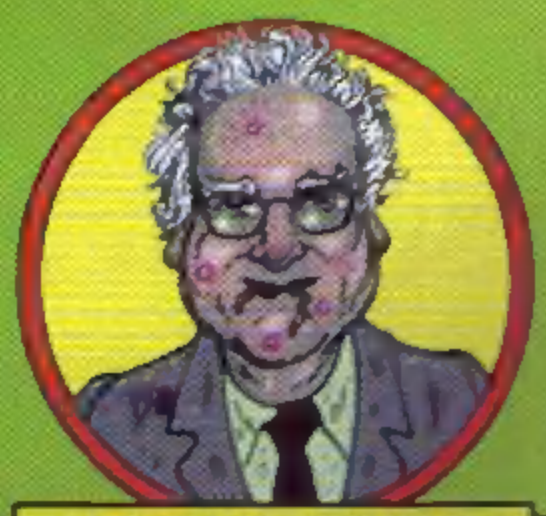
THE PUBLISHER

STEVE MANNION
COVER ARTIST

MIKHAELA REID & MASHEKA WOOD
PRODUCTION

MICHAEL PETRANEK
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

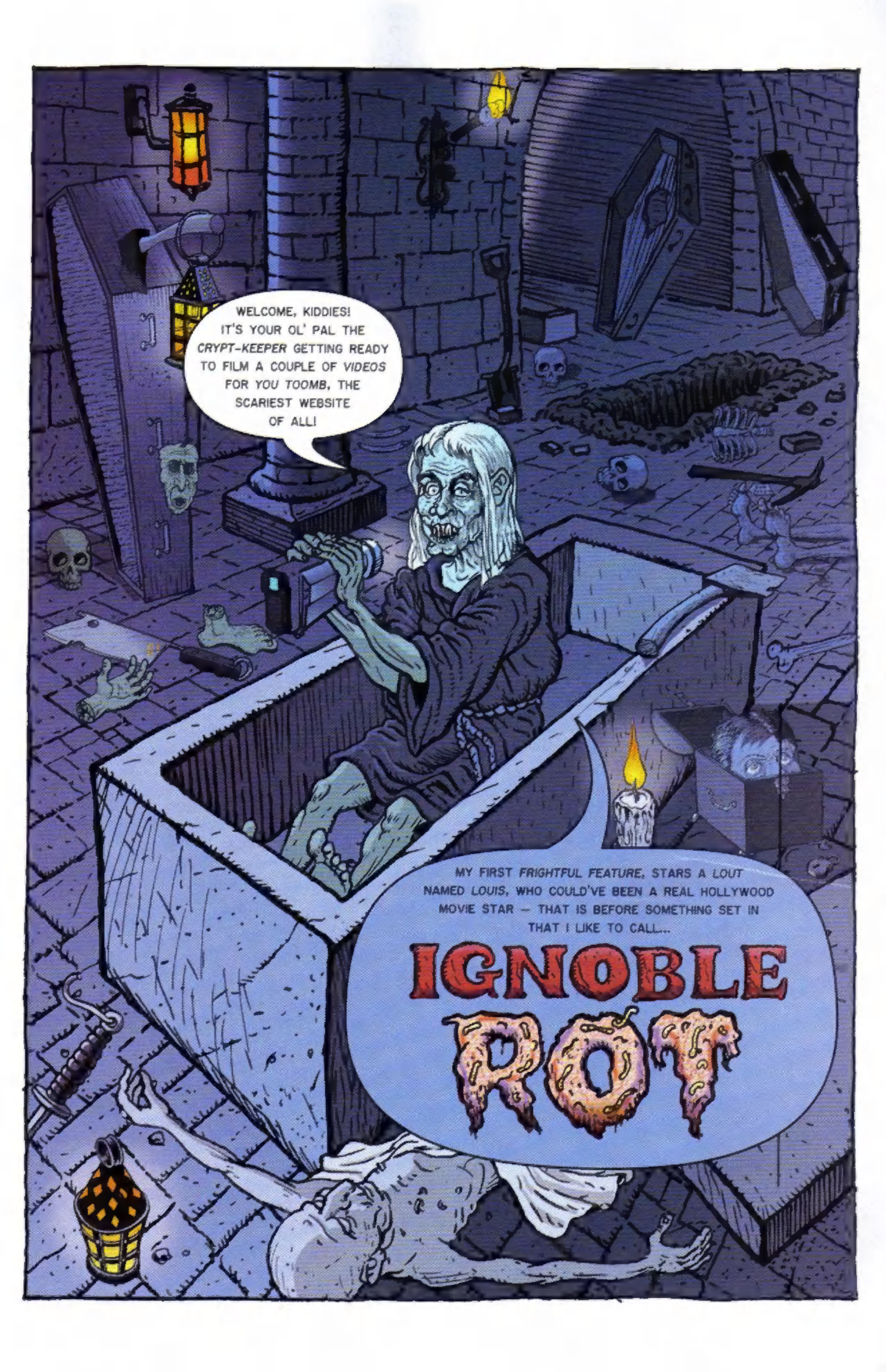
JIM SALICRUP



THE OLD EDITOR

Caricatures by Rick Parker.

TALES FROM THE CRYPT, Vol. 2, No. 7, July 2008. Published bimonthly by Papercutz, 40 Exchange Place, Ste. 1308, New York, NY 10005.
Copyright © 2008 William M. Gaines, Agent, Inc. The EC logo is a registered trademark of William M. Gaines, Agent, Inc. used with permission. Nothing may be reprinted, reproduced, or posted on the Internet or in chat groups in whole or part without written permission from the publisher. Any similarity to real people and places in fiction and semi-fiction is purely coincidental. Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Return postage must accompany submissions.
Terry Nantier, CEO and Publisher; Jim Salicrup, VP and Editor-in-Chief; Martin Satryb, Art Director; Tony Shenton, Sales Manager; Martha Samuel, Traffic Manager. www.papercutz.com. Printed in Canada.


WELCOME, KIDDIES! IT'S YOUR OL' PAL THE *CRYPT-KEEPER* GETTING READY TO FILM A COUPLE OF *VIDEOS* FOR *YOU TOOMB*, THE SCARIEST WEBSITE OF ALL!
MY FIRST *FRIGHTFUL FEATURE*, STARS A *LOUT* NAMED *LOUIS*, WHO COULD'VE BEEN A REAL HOLLYWOOD MOVIE STAR — THAT IS BEFORE SOMETHING SET IN THAT I LIKE TO CALL...
IGNOBLE ROT

THE FRENCH QUARTER AT **NIGHT**.

YOUR FAVORITE **HUNTING GROUND**, ISN'T IT, LOUIS?

AND YOU'RE IN DESPERATE NEED OF **PREY**.

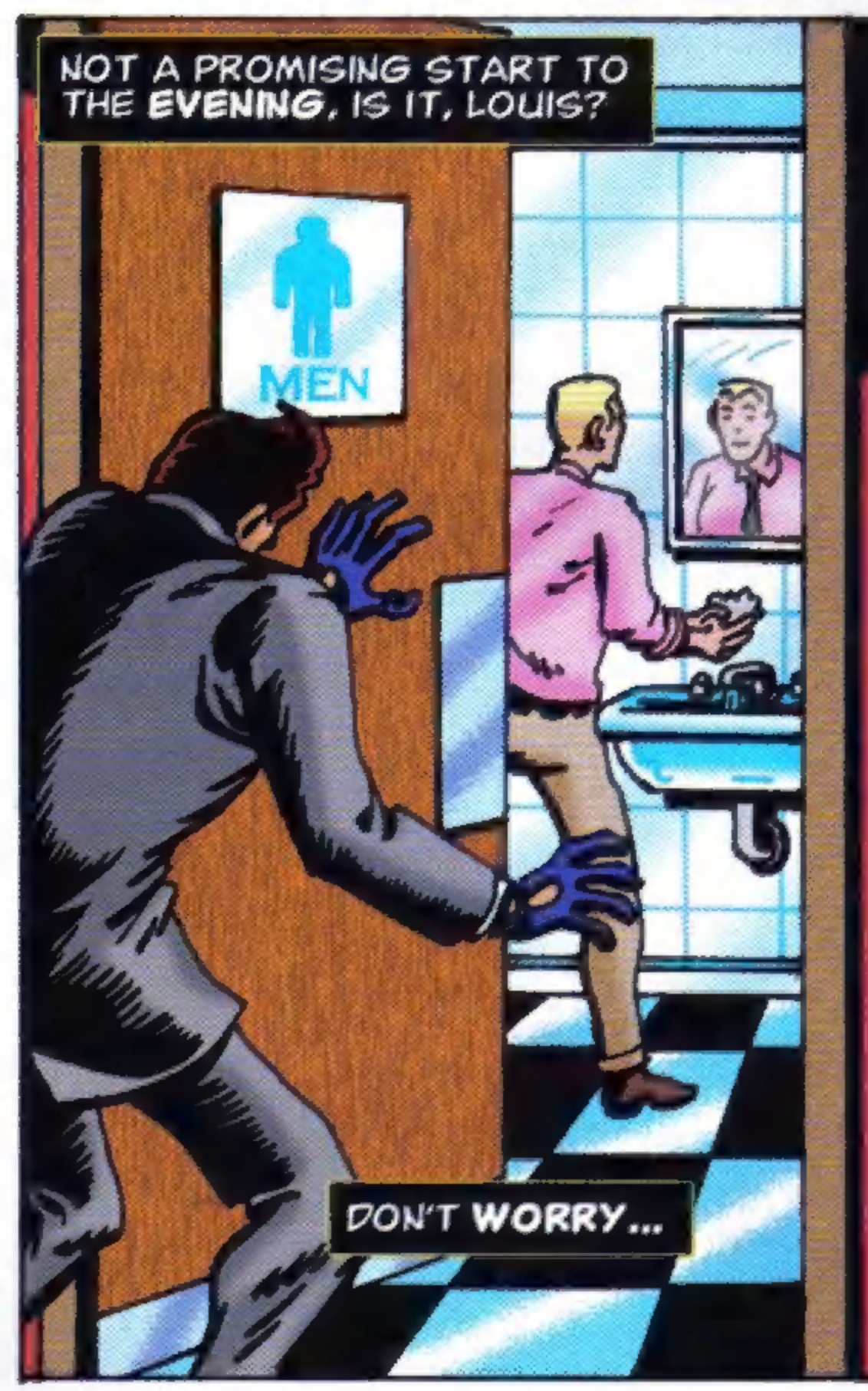
THE TRAVELER'S CHECKS YOU STOLE FROM THE PURSE OF YOUR **LAST** MARK ARE JUST ABOUT **GONE**, SO IT'S HIGH TIME TO FIND SOME **OTHER** DRUNK, LONELY TOURIST...

...**ANY** WOMAN, REALLY, WITH MORE **MONEY** THAN **SELF-ESTEEM**...

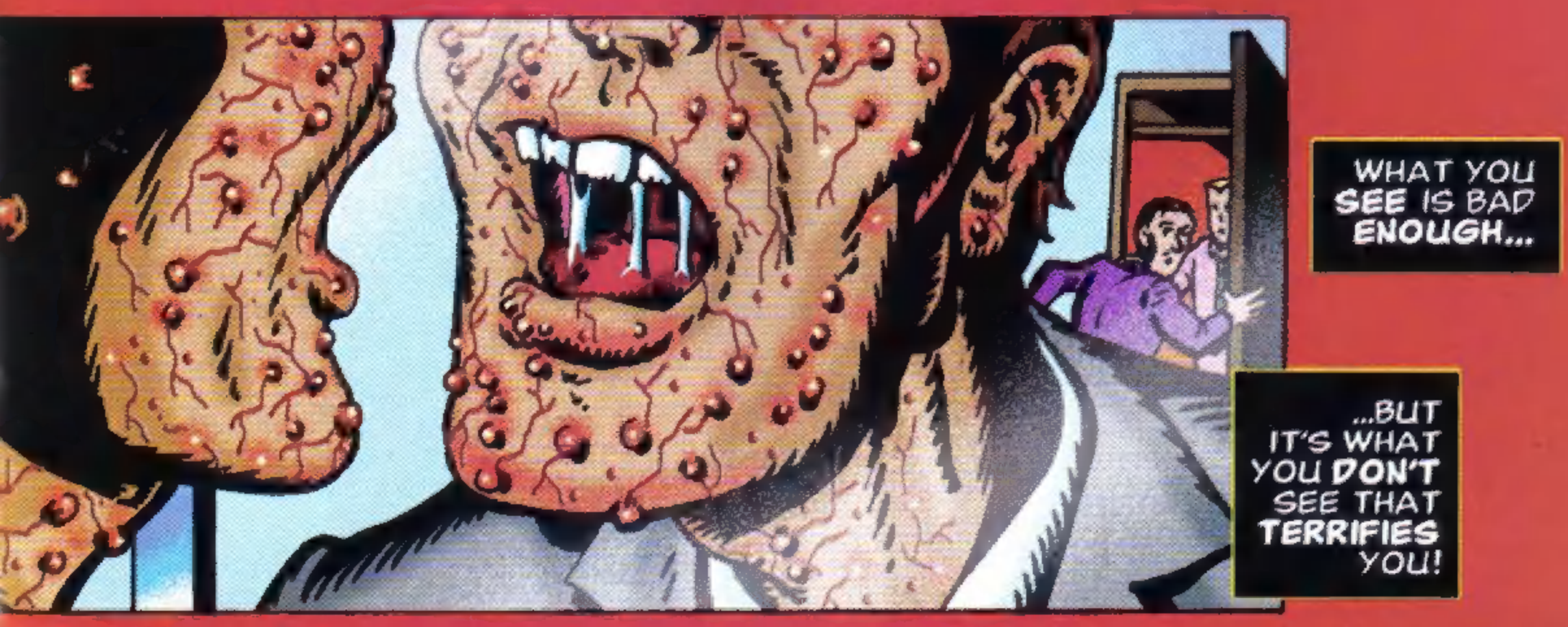
BON SOIR, LADIES!
I MADE QUITE A **KILLING** ON A '56 CHARDONNAY TODAY, SO STICK **CLOSE**, I'M BUYING ALL NIGHT LO---
GROSS!

STUCK-UP LITTLE...
HA HA
TEE HEE
...WITH YOUR GOOD LOOKS, **CHARISMA**, AND URBANE SOPHISTICA--

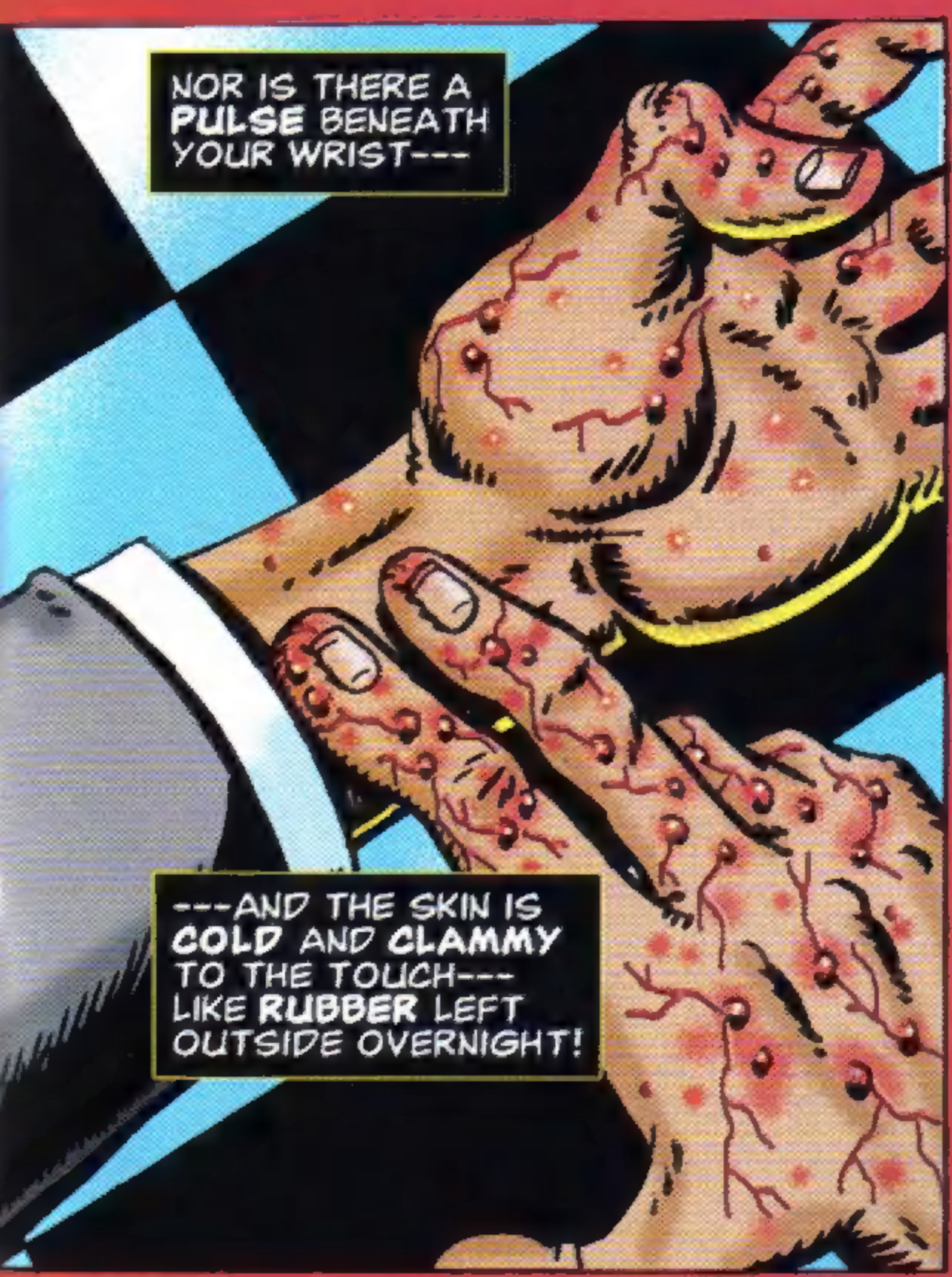
OH, ¤#@★!


NOT A PROMISING START TO THE **EVENING**, IS IT, LOUIS?
MEN
DON'T **WORRY**...

...IT GETS WORSE.
AT FIRST YOU WONDER WHAT THESE SLACK-JAWED OUT-OF-TOWNERS' PROBLEM IS...
THEN...
...YOU SEE IT FOR YOURSELF.
GASP!
CHOKE!


WHAT YOU SEE IS BAD ENOUGH...
...BUT IT'S WHAT YOU DON'T SEE THAT TERRIFIES YOU!

YOU DON'T SEE FOG ON THE MIRROR FROM YOUR BREATH! FOR NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU STRAIN YOUR LUNGS...
...YOU CANNOT BREATHE!


NOR IS THERE A PULSE BENEATH YOUR WRIST---
---AND THE SKIN IS COLD AND CLAMMY TO THE TOUCH--- LIKE RUBBER LEFT OUTSIDE OVERNIGHT!

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, NO MATTER HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS:
I-I'M...
I'M DEAD!!!

BUT--- SOMEHOW, SOME WAY--- YOU'RE STILL MOVING AROUND---
---AND SO THE NAME COMES TO YOU INSTANTLY, BURNING AN INDELIBLE IMPRINT INTO YOUR BRAIN:
DEDE.
THAT HIDEOUS OLD WITCH-WOMAN. YOU KNOW SHE--- AND ONLY SHE--- MUST BE RESPONSIBLE.
HER MISTAKE, IF SHE TRIED TO KILL YOU FROM AFAR, FOR NOT FINISHING THE JOB!
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO DRIVE RIGHT OUT TO HER PATHETIC SWAMP TRAILER PARK AND BEAT HER INTO REVERSING WHATEVER HEX SHE'S---
YOU ASSUME IT'S PART OF HER CURSE THAT YOU'VE BECOME SO CLUMSY ALL OF A SUDDEN--- THAT YOUR MUSCLES DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT YOU TELL THEM TO.

YOU'RE NO **CORONER**, OF COURSE. NOR DO YOU REALIZE THAT YOU DIED WHILE NAPPING IN YOUR **FLOPHOUSE** OVER **THREE HOURS** AGO.

SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT WHEN THE **HEART** STOPS, **GRAVITY** IMMEDIATELY BEGINS TO PULL THE STAGNANT **BLOOD** DOWN, **DOWN**, INTO THE **LOWER** PARTS OF THE BODY...

...IN THIS INSTANCE, YOUR **FACE**, DUE TO YOUR **SLEEPING** POSITION.

THEY CALL THAT REDDISH-BROWN DISCOLORATION *LIVOR MORTIS*.

AND THE FACT YOU CAN'T MAKE YOUR **MUSCLES** DO WHAT YOU **WANT** THEM TO?

GET IN THERE... BLASTED KEYS!!

THAT THEY'RE SO **LOOSE**, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE TRYING TO OPERATE A MARIONETTE WITH **CUT STRINGS?**

THAT WOULD BE **"PRIMARY FLACCIDITY."** FREED FROM THE BURDEN OF LIFE, ALL YOUR MUSCLES HAVE GONE COMPLETELY LAX.

INCLUDING YOUR **BLADDER** MUSCLES ...HENCE THE LITTLE "ACCIDENT" BACK AT THE BAR.

SKREEECH

CECILE, EVEN MORE **INSECURE** THAN SHE WAS **BEAUTIFUL**, WHO SAID SHE WAS AN **OIL EXECUTIVE'S** DAUGHTER TAKING A YEAR OFF FROM BUSINESS SCHOOL AT **TULANE**...

...THE PERFECT **MARK.**

IN NO TIME AT **ALL**, YOU HAD HER EATING OUT OF THE PALM OF YOUR **HAND.**

TASTE THAT DELICATE **SWEETNESS?**

THAT COMES FROM WHAT WE CALL **"NOBLE ROT"** IN THE GRAPE...

SHE WANTED YOU TO MEET HER **PARENTS---** A **GOOD SIGN.** YOU'D BEEN MARRIED **SIX TIMES** BEFORE... ALL UNDER VARIOUS **PSEUDONYMS...**

...AND **ALWAYS** RESULTING IN **DIVORCE SETTLEMENTS** HIGHLY PLEASING TO YOUR **WALLET.**

BUT THERE'S NOTHING A **PARASITE** HATES MORE THAN A HOST NEEDIER THAN **IT.**

TURNS OUT CECILE WAS **LYING** ABOUT HER BACKGROUND--- SHE WAS REALLY **WHITE TRASH** FROM SOME CAJUN **DUMP** IN THE MIDDLE OF THE **BAYOU**...

...COMPLETE WITH A CREEPY OLD GREAT-AUNT, **TANTE DEDE**, A *TRAITEUSE*, OR **WITCH-WOMAN**, WHO CLAIMED SHE HAD THE POWER TO "**STRIKE YOU DOWN**" IF YOU "DISRE-SPECTED" CECILE.

CECILE DIDN'T THINK YOU'D **WANT** HER IF YOU KNEW THE **TRUTH!**

SHE GOT **THAT** RIGHT!

VRRROARK

REALLY, YOU WERE DOING HER A **FAVOR**--- SHE'D FIND OUT YOU HAD NO INTEREST IN BEING SOMEBODY **ELSE'S** MEAL TICKET **EVENTUALLY!**

BUT APPARENTLY OL' TANTE DEDE DIDN'T **SEE** IT THAT WAY...

SHE'S STRUCK YOU DOWN WITH SOME KIND OF **DEATH CURSE.**

SCENIC BAYOU AREA LAST EXIT

WELL, YOU'LL BE AT HER TRAILER WITHIN THE **HOUR**. THEN SHE'LL BE **SORRY** SHE EVER---

WHA--- ?!

MY EYES---!

OH, LOOK AT THE **TIME**--- HOW IT **FLIES.**

YOU'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD FOR A **WHILE**. IT'S BEEN **SIX** HOURS SINCE YOU DIED.

CHEMICAL CHANGES IN YOUR **CORPSE** HAVE CAUSED ALL ITS **MUSCLES** TO **LOCK IN PLACE.**

A CONDITION MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

"RIGOR MORTIS."

VVRRRRROOOMMM

ZOOOMM
SMASH!
CRASH

THUD
AND IT LASTS A WHILE.
YOU CAN'T SEE WITH YOUR EYELIDS CLAMPED SHUT, BUT YOU CAN FEEL THE RISING SUN BAKING WHAT'S LEFT OF YOU.
WAKING THE MICROBES--- COLSTRIDIUM PUTRIFIUM--- THAT HAD BEEN LIVING IN YOUR FLESH SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN...
...PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU TO DIE SO THEY CAN BEGIN DEVOURING YOU IN THE PROCESS OF DECOMPOSITION.

THE BACTERIA AT WORK GIVE OFF QUITE AN ODOR.
A FRAGRANCE REPULSIVE TO MOST...
...BUT IRRESISTIBLE TO OTHERS.

AND THOUGH YOU CANNOT MOVE A **MUSCLE**, YOU ARE TOTALLY, HORRIBLY **AWAKE** THROUGH **ALL** OF IT.

WHEN NOT SCREAMING IN **SILENT HORROR**...

...YOU FANTASIZE ABOUT EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY TO KILL A **CROW**.

OF COURSE, BY THE TIME **THAT** HAPPENS...

...YOU ARE **QUITE MAD**.

YOU DON'T EVEN EXPRESS ANY **GRATITUDE** WHEN THEY RESTORE YOUR **SIGHT** TO YOU.

AFTER A DAY OR SO, *RIGOR MORTIS* FADES INTO **SECONDARY** FLACCIDITY.

SECONDARY FLACCIDITY IS NOT **PRIMARY** FLACCIDITY.

YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE NOT MUCH MORE THAN A **SHAMBLE**.

NGGGGEE GGEEEE...

YOUR MOUTH AND THROAT ARE TOO **WEAK** TO GIVE VOICE TO YOUR **PURPOSE**.

BUT IT **IS** THAT PURPOSE--- IN THE FORM OF A **NAME**, BRANDED ONTO WHAT **REMAINS** OF YOUR **ROTTING** BRAIN...

...THAT CONTINUES TO SPUR YOU **FORWARD**, LIKE AN **URGENT RIDER**.

YOU WILL LET NOTHING SLOW YOUR PROGRESS.
YOU KNOW NEITHER FATIGUE... NOR FEAR.
WOULD-BE PREDATORS...
...AVOID YOU.
THEY KNOW SPOILED MEAT WHEN THEY SMELL IT.

INSTINCT TELLS YOU WHEN YOU'VE REACHED YOUR DESTINATION...

...WHICH IS...

...WHERE, AGAIN?

SO HARD TO REMEMBER.

THE NOXIOUS FLATULENCE OF PUTRESCENT GASES ESCAPING YOUR BLOATED CORPSE DOES NOT HELP YOUR CONCENTRATION.

YES, YES, HERE YOU ARE. WHERE YOU WANTED TO BE. THAT MUCH YOU CAN RECALL.

HERE, WHERE YOU WANTED TO... TO DO WHAT?

BLAST! THAT'S THE PART YOU'RE MISSING.

COULD IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT OLD WOMAN?

NO... PROBABLY NOT. YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE IN YOUR 'LIFE.'

NNGG EEEG GEE...

BEST TO RETURN TO THE SWAMP. THE PRIMORDIAL, ETERNAL STILLNESS OF THE SWAMP.

PERHAPS THERE YOU WILL FIND PEACE.

SNAP!
MGGGN NEEHH!!
TANTE DEDE! TANTE DEDE! YOU WERE RIGHT!
HE COME BACK FOR YOU--- JUST LIKE YOU SAID HE WOULD!
NNEHHH!!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IF I STRUCK YOU WITH THE DEATH CURSE YOU'D COME AFTER ME--- YOU'RE THAT TYPE!
HAD TO LURE YOU BACK HERE---
---SO YOU CAN MAKE RIGHT WHAT YOU DID!
LEAD THE CITY SLICKER IN THERE, BOYS! DON'T WANT TO KEEP EVERYBODY WAITING!

YOU'RE GONNA MAKE AN **HONEST WOMAN** OF MY GRANDNIECE!

AFTER YOU **ABANDONED** HER---

---CECILE WENT AND **DROWNED HERSELF** IN THE **BAYOU!**

BUT YOU AIN'T GONNA GET OFF **THAT** EASY---

---LEAVING HER IN A **FAMILY WAY** LIKE THAT!

NU-UH! YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!

AIN'T NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN SOME RESPONSIBILITY!

NNNEEE HHHH!!

YOU SWORE YOU'D NEVER BE ANYBODY ELSE'S MEAL TICKET, LOUIS! NOT ANY WOMAN'S--- CERTAINLY NOT ANY CHILD'S---

BUT NOW YOU CAN KISS YOUR PRECIOUS FREEDOM GOODBYE! MIGHT AS WELL SHED A TEAR FOR IT AS IT GOES.

DEARLY BELOVED, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY....

AFTER ALL, YOU ALWAYS CRY AT WEDDINGS.

UNFORTUNATELY, BY THIS TIME, *CALLIPHORA VICINA*, THE BLOW FLY, HAS LAID EGGS IN YOUR TEAR DUCTS.

SO ONLY MAGGOTS COME OUT...

NOW, THAT WAS A REAL *BADTIME STORY!*
MY NEXT ONSLAUGHT OF ONLINE *TERROR* IS THE *TAIL*, I MEAN *TALE* OF TWO *HIRSUTE HOUSEPETS*, ER, I MEAN *HOUSEMATES*...
GRR!
GRR!
AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE *VAULT-KEEPER* AND THE *OLD WITCH* IN THEIR *CHEAP RUBBER MASKS!*
GRR?
GIVE IT UP!
IT'S A STORY THAT STARTS ON THE CITY'S *MEAN STREETS!* I CALL IT...
MIDNIGHT SONATA

IT WAS A RARE HOME RUN FOR ROSCOE LITTLE, MUGGER BY PROFESSION. COWARD BY NATURE.

ROSCOE'S "CUSTOMER" IS ONE DRAGO SAVAGE, AN UPTOWN MAN TAKING A SHORT CUT ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE BUTCHER SHOP.

ADDRESS ON THE LICENSE... PRETTY UPTOWN DIGS. MIGHT BE WORTH CHECKING OUT.
LOOKS LIKE A PACKAGE OF MEAT... MIGHT AS WELL GO FOR THE WHOLE HOG.
LOOKS DARK... MAYBE EMPTY. THAT WOULD BE GOOD.
ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

JACKPOT.

TIME TO CHECK OUT WHAT'S GOING TO THE PAWN SHOP.

NICE... AND IF NO ONE'S HERE, THIS BED WILL BEAT SLEEPING IN AN ALLEY.

ALL MEN'S CLOTHES... MUST LIVE ALONE. THIS GETS BETTER AND BETTER.

TIME TO FIND THE KITCHEN, CHECK OUT WHAT'S FOR DINNER.
BEATS THE THROWAWAYS AT JOE'S GRILL.
STEAKS! I NEED TO BEAN ME ONE OF THESE GUYS EVERY NIGHT.
MAN, THAT SMELLS GREAT.

AHHRO OOO!
WHAT THE HELL?
WHROOOOOO!
GUY MUST HAVE A DOG.
WHROOOOO!
BUT I NEVER HEARD A DOG LIKE THAT.
WHROOOOOOOO!
NOPE. NOT DOGS.

JUST LIKE IN THE HORROR MOVIES...WERE-WOLVES.
SO THAT'S WHO THE STEAKS WERE FOR.

LATER...
THIS IS THE LIFE... EVEN GOT MY OWN EXOTIC PETS.
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE LIKES OF YOU TWO.
SURE BEATS THE CHEAP STUFF.
AN EXPENSIVE WINE HANGOVER IS A LOT LIKE A CHEAP WINE HANGOVER.

MORNING... ALREADY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WERE-WOLVES?
THAT WOULD BE US.
WHERE'S DRAGO?

YOU SURE LOOK BETTER WITHOUT ALL THAT HAIR AND TEETH, HONEY. AS FOR DRAGO, HE AIN'T COMING BACK...
OH, NO. HE WAS OUR BROTHER. OUR PROTECTOR. WHAT WILL WE DO?
I'M IN CHARGE NOW. SO, YOU'LL DO WHAT I TELL YOU.
HAVE PITY ON US.
I'LL HAVE WHATEVER I WANT, AND THE FIRST THING I WANT IS TO KNOW HOW YOU COME TO BE THE FREAKS YOU ARE.

WILL YOU HELP US IF WE TELL YOU?

I MIGHT. YOU NEVER KNOW. TELL ME.

"WE'RE A FAMILY OF ARCHEOLOGISTS." LIKE OUR PARENTS. ALL EXCEPT DRAGO.

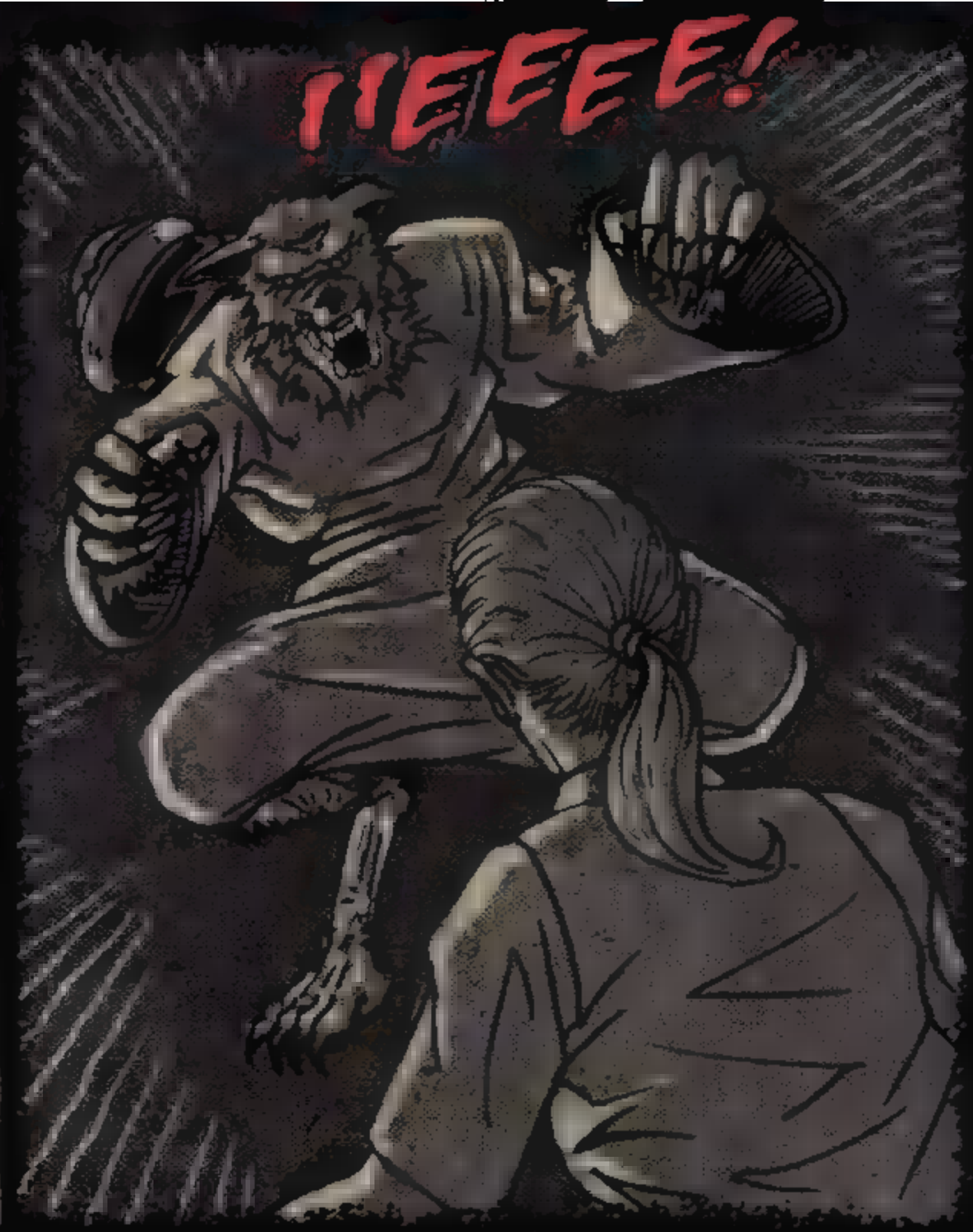
"WE DISCOVERED AN UNDISTURBED TOMB IN THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS. A LOCAL TOLD US OF THE PLACE. HE WOULD ONLY TAKE US THERE WHEN IT WAS NEAR NIGHT.

IT'S THE SYMBOL OF ANUBIS.

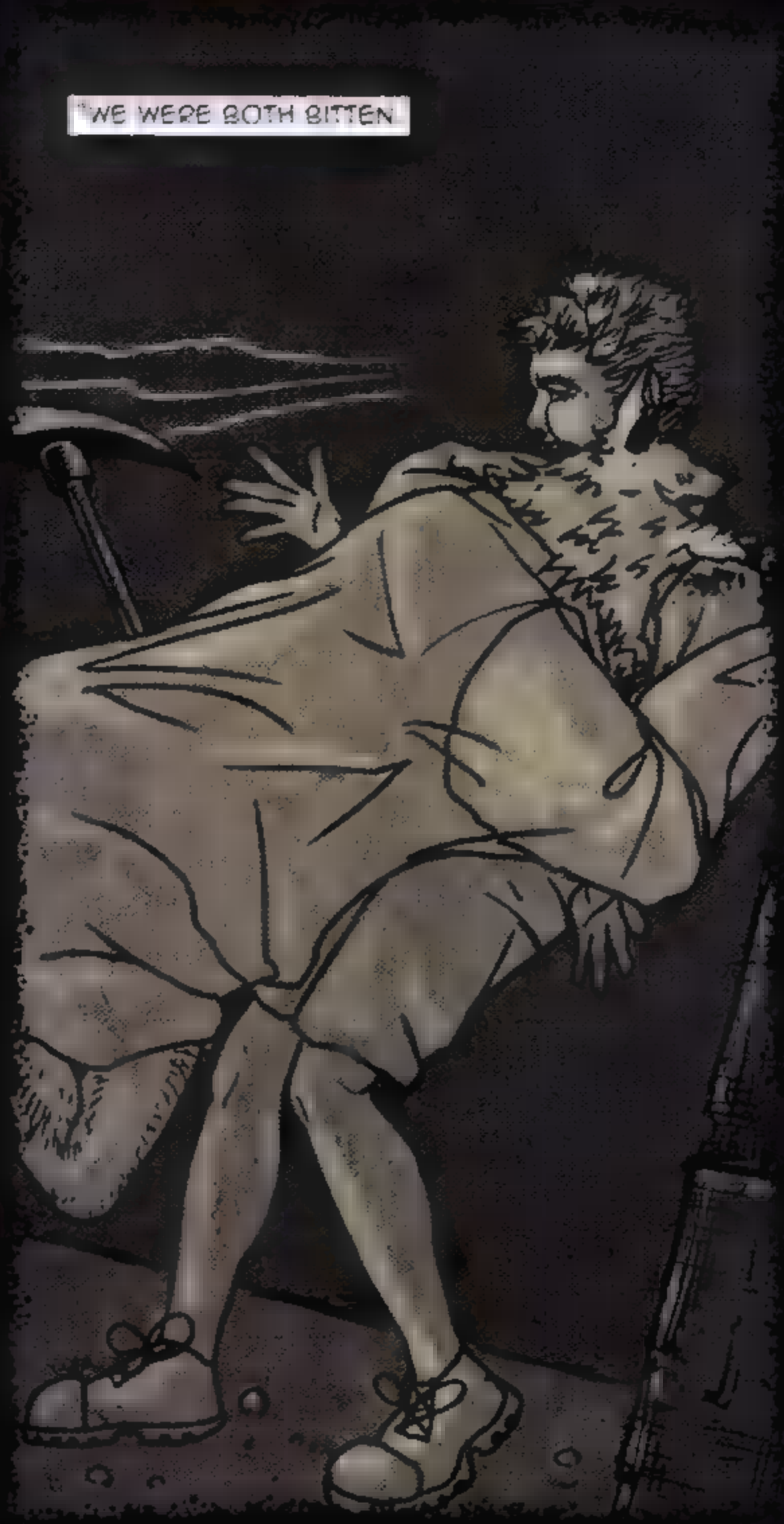
MOST DEFINITELY

IT'S A CURSE OF SOME KIND. SAYS ANUBIS WILL SEND HIS MINIONS TO AVENGE HIM IF THE TOMB IS OPENED.
RIDICULOUS, OF COURSE. OPEN IT.
TO HELL WITH ARCHEOLOGY! WE CAN MAKE A FORTUNE.
"WE WERE OVERCOME WITH GREED.
THE MOON IS UP... AND YOUR PATH IS BLOCKED.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I AM A GUARDIAN OF THIS TOMB. NOW YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR INVASION.


!!EEEE!

"I WAS BITTEN.


"WE WERE BOTH BITTEN.

"BUT BY ACCIDENT WE FOUND THE BEAST'S ACHILLE'S HEEL.

"IT WAS SILVER.

"WHEN IT WAS DEAD, WE GAVE UP ON THE PLACE AND FLED.

"WHEN WE RETURNED HOME THE CURSE KICKED IN. AND WE BECAME AS YOU SAW US."

HOW COME YOU'RE IN THESE CAGES?
TO KEEP US SAFE, AND TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE. JUST BEFORE DAYLIGHT, DRAGO SETS US FREE.
BUT AT NIGHT, WE STAY IN THESE CAGES.
WELL, HE AIN'T HERE FOR THAT NOW, IS HE? I LIKE YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE.
AND IF YOU'RE A GOOD LITTLE BOY AND GIRL, I MIGHT JUST KEEP FEEDING YOU... SCRAPS, OF COURSE. MIGHT GET YOU MATCHING FLEA COLLARS.
HA! HA! HA!
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING TO LOOT THIS JOINT SIX WAYS FROM SUNDAY.

ROSCOE MADE A NUMBER OF TRIPS TO THE PAWNSHOP.
LAYAWAY
Up to 6 Months

HE WENT METHODICALLY FROM ROOM TO ROOM.

WHAT'S HE DO WITH ALL THESE BOOKS?

HEY, THIS IS ABOUT WERE-WOLVES AND VAMPIRES.
VAMPIRES CAN'T STAND CROSSES, DAYLIGHT AND THE WOOD FROM A HAWTHORN TREE. BUT WHAT I GOT IS WEREWOLVES... LETS SEE.
WEREWOLVES ARE SUBJECT TO DISPATCH BY ANYTHING SILVER
HEY, THAT'S WHAT MISSY FANG SAID... BUT WHO CARES? THEY'RE IN A CAGE.
NOW, THIS WILL SELL.

HEY, THESE LOOK LIKE...

THEY ARE... THEY'RE SILVER. WELL, OLD DRAGO WASN'T ENTIRELY TRUSTING OF BUBBA AND SIS.

THIS PLACE IS ABOUT WORKED OUT.

NOW, TO SEE IF THESE BULLETS WORK... DON'T WANT TO LEAVE ANY WITNESSES.

EVEN IF THEY ARE PART-TIME WERE-WOLVES.

RRRR RRARGH!

AND BEFORE I LEAVE I'M GOING TO GET ME ANOTHER BOTTLE OF THAT WINE!

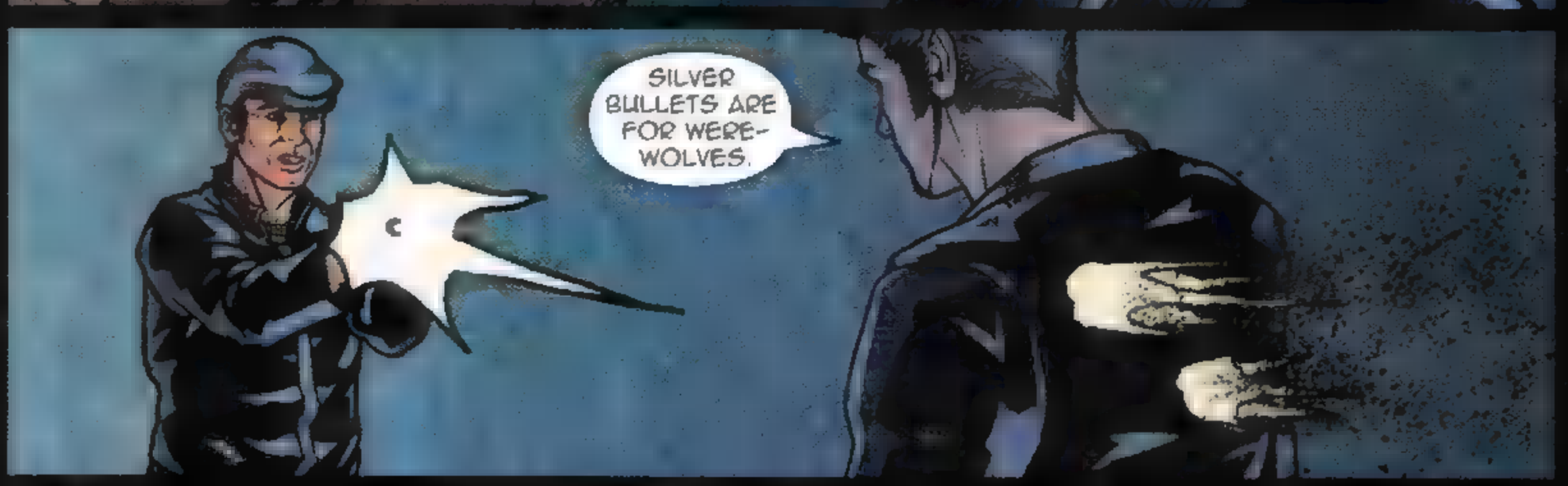
LADY AND GENT, TIME TO SAY GOODNIGHT.

B-AM!

B-AM!

WELL, THAT'S THAT.
BECAUSE OF YOU, I HAD TO SLEEP IN A DUMPSTER TODAY.

YOU... HOW..? YOU'RE DEAD.
THE CLUB YOU HIT ME WITH... MUST HAVE BEEN HAW-THORNE.
AND, YES. I'M DEAD. I'VE BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME.


SILVER BULLETS ARE FOR WERE-WOLVES.

THEY'RE NOT FOR...
WEEEEE!!

...VAMPIRES!
THE END

ANIMAL LOVERS, PLEASE NOTE THAT NO *WERE-WOLVES* WERE ACTUALLY MISTREATED IN THE MAKING OF THAT VIDEO!
KILLED, YES! *MISTREATED*, NO!

WHA--?!
ENOUGH OF THAT, *SCARENTINO*!
GRAB!
IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT, KID-DIES!

BUT BEFORE WE PUT THIS ISSUE TO *DEATHBED*, I MUST *WARN* OUR *ROTTEN READERS* NOT TO MISS OUR NEXT ISSUE! IT FEATURES TWO *TERROR-TALES* YOU WON'T SOON FORGET!
GOOD NIGHT, KIDDIES! AND PLEASANT SCREAMS!
HAHAHA!

Greetings, CRETINS! It's me, your digital camera-toting Crypt-Keeper, with another SCARY SELECTION of SPAM from our beloved fans. Looks like our "NEW DIRECTION" toward DARKER, more INTENSE TALES of TERROR is going over better than expected! Just check out the voting for last issue's favorite TERROR TALE. "A Ripping Good Time" by writers Joe R. Lansdale and John L. Lansdale and illustrated by James Romberger, SOUNDLY SLAUGHTERED "Jumping the Shark" by writer Arie Kaplan and artist Mr. Exes. Just goes to show that even today's frightening TV producers can't compete with ol' Jack the Ripper when it comes to the real FEAR FACTOR!

We're also thrilled to announce that yet a FOURTH FEAR-FILLED collection of TALES FROM THE CRYPT stories from Papercutz will soon be HAUNTING your favorite bookseller's shelves. Available in both paperback and COLLECTOR'S ITEM hardcovers, "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4: CRYPT-KEEPING IT REAL!" features my never-before-seen YOU TOOMB contributions, "You Toomb" by Stefan Petrucha and Tim Smith 3, "The Creditor" by Alex Simmons and Mort Todd, "Dumped" by Scott Lobdell and Facundo Velilla & Alejandro Cabral, and "Roses Bedight" by Stefan Petrucha and Jeziel Sanchez Martinez. The third VENOMOUS VOLUME, entitled "TALES FROM THE CRYPT #3: ZOMBIELICIOUS!" features "Graveyard Shift at the Twilight Gardens" by Rob Vollmar and Tim Smith 3, an EXCLUSIVE all-new tale, created just for the graphic novel series!

I could also mention that the first two collected CRYPT volumes ("Ghouls Gone Wild!" and "Can You Fear Me Now?") are both still on sale at better BOOkstores everywhere, but then I wouldn't have any room left for your FAWNING FAN-MAIL...

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

Cheers to you for bringing T.F.T.C. horror back to my local comic shop. I've been an EC fan forever and have been reading your new publication since issue #1. Now I gotta say at first I was disappointed with most of the art, yet the stories are actually quite good and I find myself fiending for the next issues. I just finished reading issues #4 and #5. On #4 I really enjoyed "Extra Life," extreme gamer madness is always a plus. It has a great modernized sense of horror writing and I loved the art. Then "Crystal Clear" another great story for the modern horror reader yet the art is just lagging. On issue #5 "Queen of the Vampires" is a good read and the artwork is getting better. "Kid-tested, Mother Approved" shot it down for me. I enjoyed the story but what a lousy cover, it's as if my 5 year-old son drew the art. So here're my questions: Why only two stories per issue? And can't you get a better artist to represent the Crypt Keeper, the Old Witch and the Vault Keeper? I'm sure most will agree they just look silly. Two last questions -- I'm on the brink of finishing my own horror comic publication. Any advice on how to make it happen? Or how could I get one of my twisted stories and art in your mag?

A true fan,
Doug Randazzo
Long Island, New York

Bribery usually works, Doug!

Dear Crypt-Keeper,

I just got a new Tales from the Crypt pinball machine! Attached is a picture of me with my pinball machine. I really like reading your comic because it has lots of evil stories and it's fun to read.

Keep up your evil work!

Gabe (age 9)

US Air Base Ramstein

(Germany)

PSC 2 Box 11587

APO AE 09012

Now Gabe knows how to get on our good side!

Subject: Crypt #6

Recently, I wrote to you guys and expressed my general feelings toward the first five issues of the new TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Generally, I was happy with the series but, being a huge fan of the original comics, I was concerned that the new series may not be grisly enough. Judging by the letter column, I am not the only person that felt this way.

After reading the sixth issue, I would like to commend you on actually listening to the input of your readers. This was definitely the best issue produced thus far and this new (old) direction that you are taking is gradually becoming evident.

That being said, I still have a couple of complaints. I was really enjoying "Jumping the Shark," but the ending is a huge letdown. Seriously, "I'm a rerun?" That's it? The entire story was leading up to a pun? No gore, no ironic death, nothing? Okay...at least the art is quite good. Mr. Exes is quickly becoming my favorite modern CRYPT artist thus far, as his work on "Queen of the Vampires" is also solid. In a way, "A Ripping Good Time" is the opposite of "Jumping the Shark." I liked the story, but I was not crazy about the art. While the story is your most gruesome thus far (even though I am pretty sure that decapitations typically involve blood), I often had to reread pages in order to understand what the hell was going on. The murky art style made it difficult to understand the progression of the plot and a more traditional style would have greatly benefited the story. However, if you are conducting a poll about this issue, my vote goes to "A Ripping Good Time."

Looking ahead, I eagerly await issue #7, as the cover image leads me to believe that this will be the first issue with actual gore in it. I also noticed that #7 is shipping in July and #8 is shipping in August. Does this mean that CRYPT is going monthly?

Michael

Saddle Brook, NJ

It's not exactly BLOOD, but we are hoping to KETCHUP on our schedule!

Subject: TFTC #6

Congratulations on the sixth issue. It is nice to see that you have made it this far. Everyone in the letters section seems to talk about the art in the comics and that's one area I can applaud you guys for, the art. While it isn't like the older EC comics, it does have its own style and a look all its own. The stories seem to carry that feel that the old issues have, and that's a good thing.

I do, however, have to give some heavy credit for the cover of issue #6. This cover alone looks like a classic TALES FROM THE CRYPT cover and it really gave me that nostalgic feel just looking at it, serious Kudos there.

I have been reading TALES FROM THE CRYPT since I was a kid, obviously from the reprints, and I must say that it is great to see some new material as I am sure that Gaines would be happy also to see his ideas making a return. It's time for VAULT and HAUNT to make their triumphant returns now, just for the record in my opinion.

I'm gonna vote too. I loved "Jumping The Shark" as it was a well-written story with some exceptional looks at the morality of modern television. I did, however, really enjoy the artwork for "A Ripping Good Time" I just wish the story had been a bit more fleshed out. Either way, keep up the good work and I hope to keep seeing you hacking things out to my newsstand.

The Crypt Faithful,

Jason Greene

Maybe we should bring Jack the Ripper back as a TV producer...?

Keep those emails and letters coming – we get so lonely here in the Crypt of Terror! Send letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your comments to the Old Editor at:

salicrup@papercutz.com

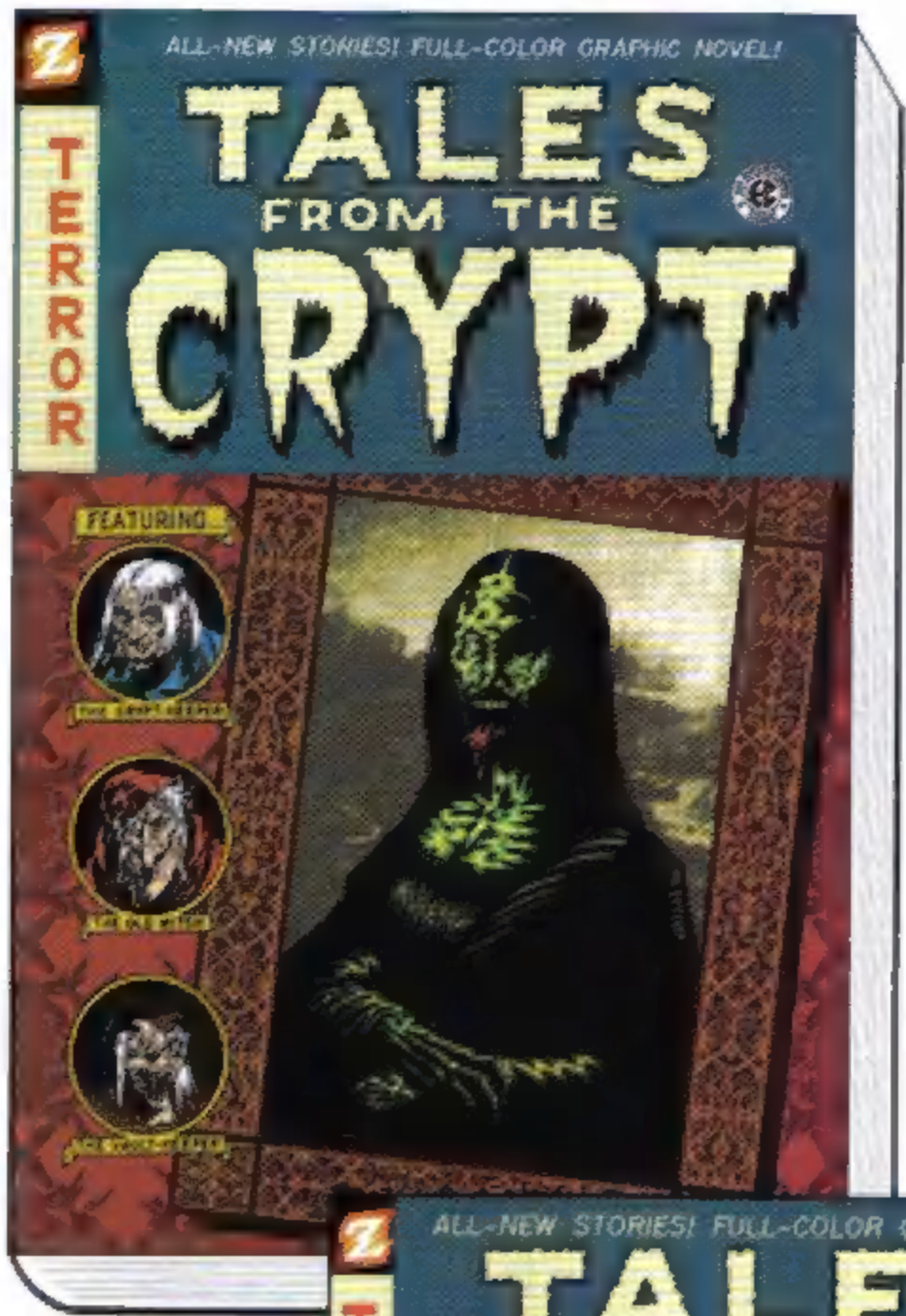
And be sure to visit **papercutz.com** for the latest TALES FROM THE CRYPT news!

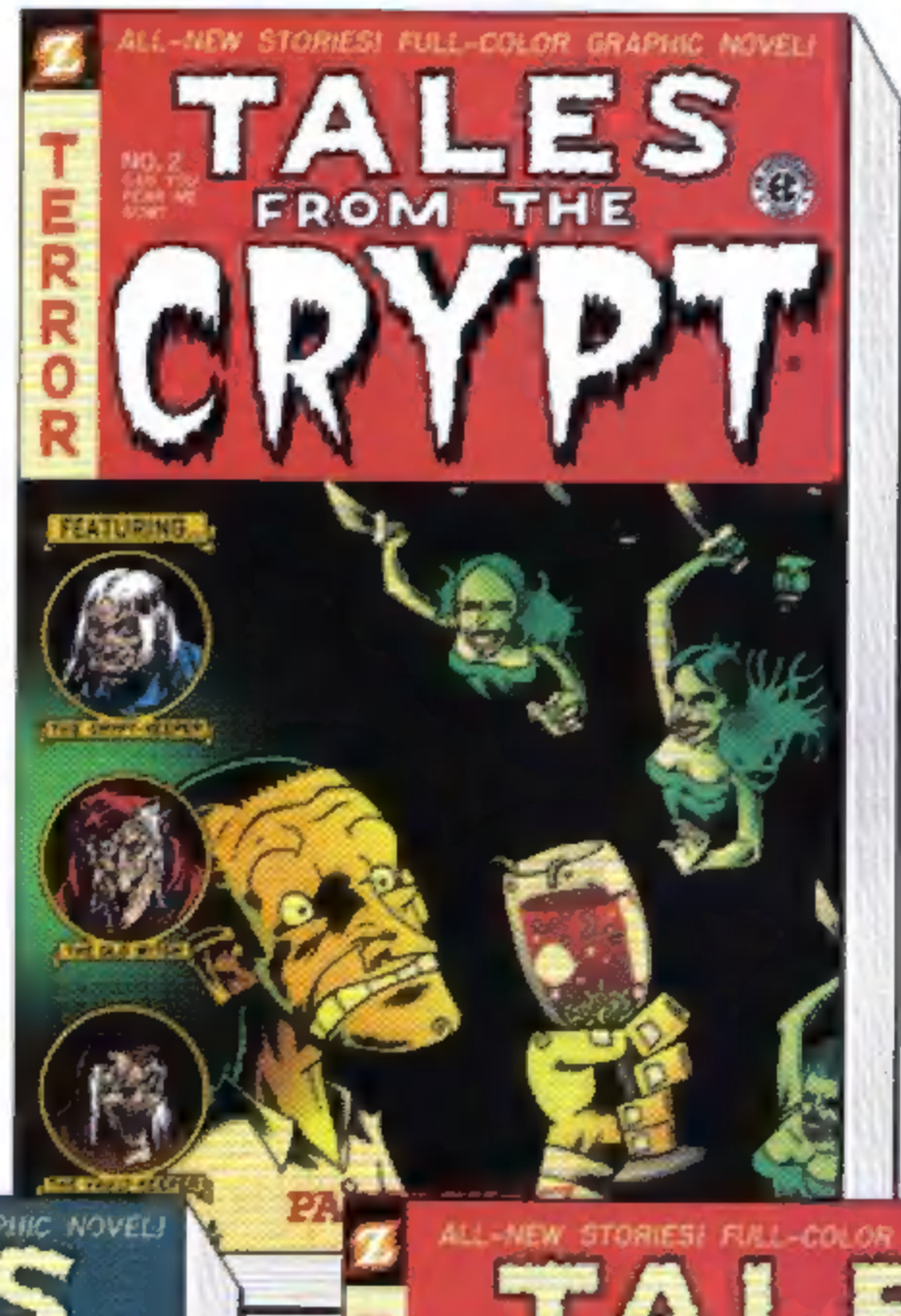
SUBSCRYPTIONS!

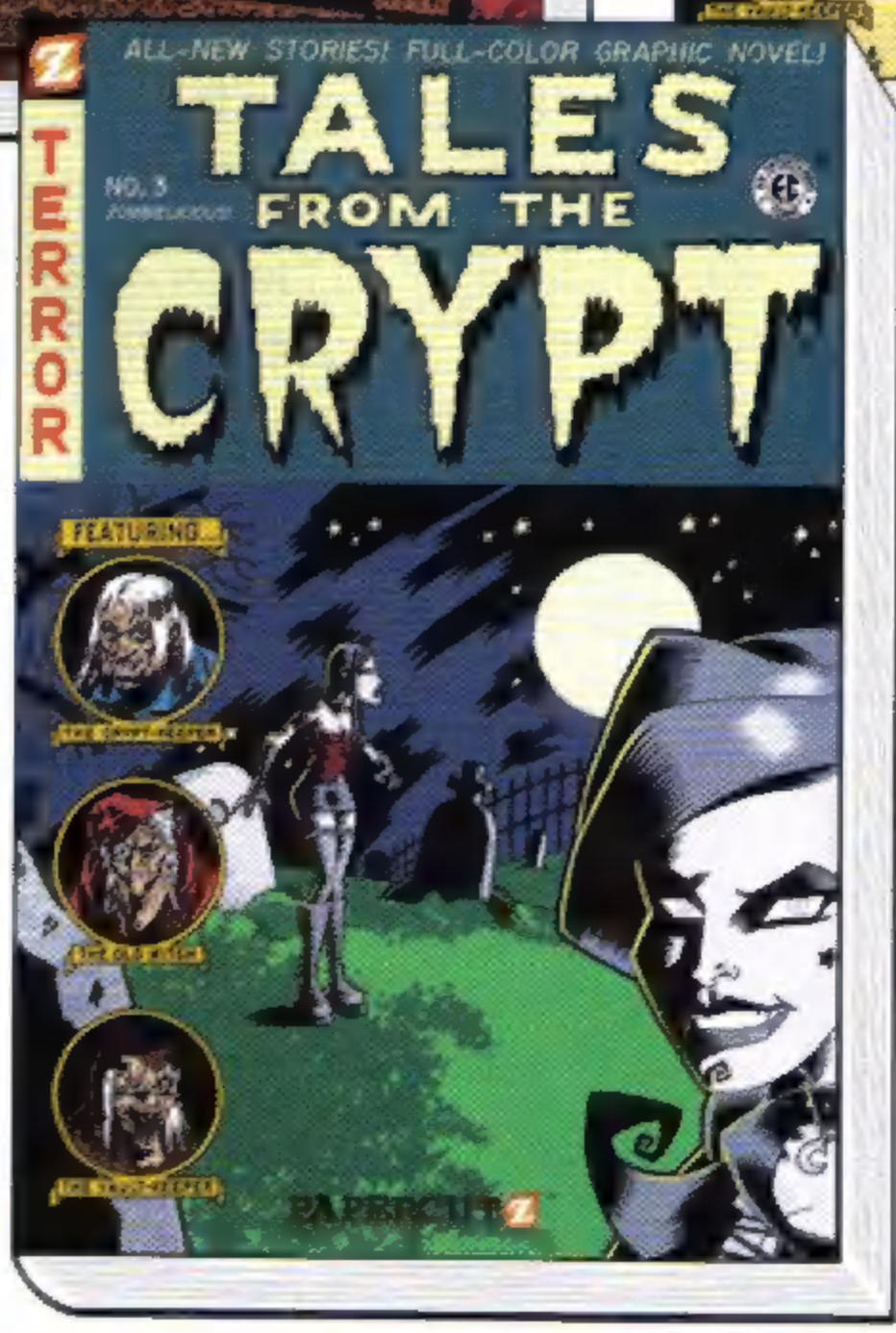
For a one year (six-issue) subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT, just send a check or money order, in US funds only, for $24.00.
Send to: subCRYPTions, PAPERCUTZ, 40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308, New York, NY 10005. Make checks payable to NBM.
Or call 1-800-886-1223.
MC, VISA, and AMEX accepted.

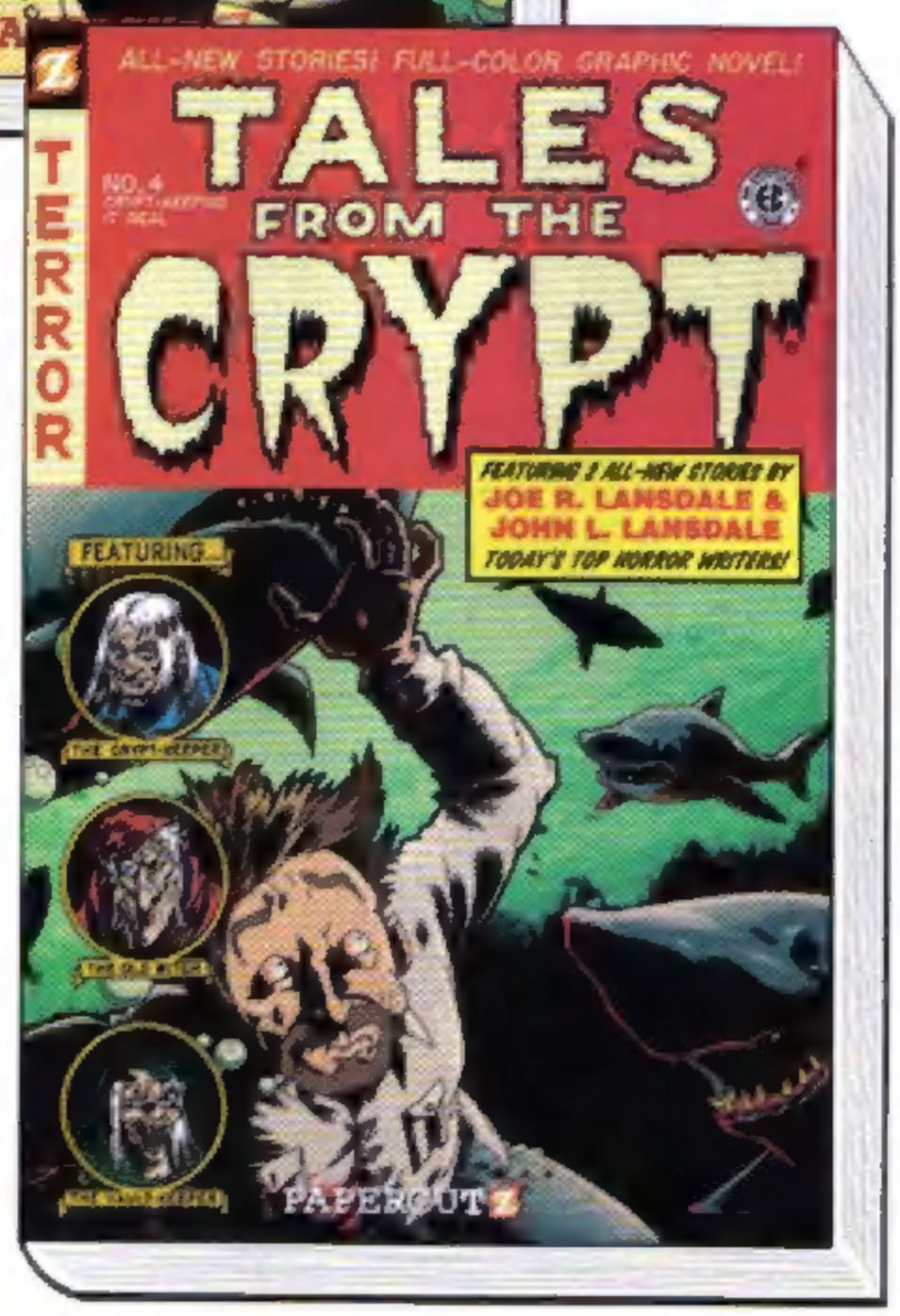
E.C. FANS!

YOU'VE WRITTEN!
YOU'VE E-MAILED!
YOU'VE PHONED!
YOU'VE THREATENED US!
YOU'VE DEMANDED!
(BUT WE'RE COMING OUT WITH THESE COLLECTIONS ANYWAY!)









COLLECTING STORIES BY BILGREY, MR.EXES, GNIEWEK, HUDSON, KLEID, MANNION, McGREGOR, MURASE, NOETH, PETRUCHA, ROMBERGER, SMITH 3, TODD, and VOLLMAR!

ON SALE NOW AT BOOKSTORES EVERYWHERE!

WildBlueZero